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COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Plans for the Reorganization of
VEB Serunwerk Dessau

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SOURCE:

1. Recently VEB Serumwerk-Dessau was placed under the administration of the East German Ministerium fuer Land- und Forstwirtschaft. The change caused considerable jealousy within the Ministerium fuer Gesundheitswesen which had formerly controlled the Serumwerk. A reorganization of the Serumwerk is planned whereby the pharmaceutical facilities will be separated from the present organization and made into a completely new company, to be known as "Seropharm." The latter company will be set up in Bernburg/Saale and will produce all pharmaceuticals and snake poisons now made by Serumwerk-Dessau.
2. Seropharm will, however, be under the administration of the Ministerium fuer Gesundheitswesen, thereby compensating that Ministry for its loss of the Dessau company. The director of Seropharm will be Dr. med. (fnu) Koepple and the production manager will be August Leitz, both of Serumwerk-Dessau. These men are highly ambitious and, since pharmaceutical production is lucrative, are anxious to begin their new work.
3. With the removal of pharmaceutical production from VEB Serumwerk-Dessau, the latter organization with its branches in Dessau, Torna, Luisium and Rottenau will be concerned only with the production of serums and vaccines. Present plans are for the enterprise to become a State Institute under the direction of Prof. Dr. H. Moehlmann who is still not pleased with his proposed reassignment from the Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Riems Island.
4. No decision has been made concerning the way in which the Rottenau station of the Serumwerk will be utilized. It is possible that virus production will be carried on there. Dr. med. vet. Peter Stoehr, former head of the Rottenau station, has been transferred to the Torna station where swine erysipelas vaccine is now made.
5. Herr (fnu) Rau, SED director of the VEB Serumwerk-Dessau, controlled political activities at the plant but lost his power after the 17 June 1953 uprising in the East Zone. The political meetings for the workers, formerly conducted every three or four days, are no longer held and emphasis on political propaganda has been greatly curtailed. Rau will be dismissed but will be assigned to another industrial position not yet identified.

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